
HOUSE BILL 1833

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Representatives Berg, Riccelli, Callan, Gregerson, Santos, Shewmake, Wylie, Sullivan, Slatter, Bergquist, Stonier, and Harris-Talley

Prefiled 01/07/22. Read first time 01/10/22. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing an electronic option for the
2 submission of household income information required for participation
3 in school meals and programs; adding a new section to chapter 28A.235
4 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter 42.56 RCW.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.235
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
9 initiate and oversee the development and implementation of a
10 statewide electronic repository of household income information that
11 is required for a student's enrollment in, or eligibility for, the
12 national school lunch program, the school breakfast program, or both
13 programs for the purpose of:

14 (a) Removing barriers that diminish access to free and reduced-
15 price meals by students enrolled in eligible schools;

16 (b) Providing parents and legal guardians of students enrolled in
17 eligible schools with a voluntary, secure, and convenient online
18 portal for providing household information that is required for
19 participation in the national school lunch program, the school
20 breakfast program, or both programs;

1 (c) Providing student household income information to schools and
2 school districts that provide meals at no charge to students without
3 using school meal applications to determine eligibility for low-
4 income programs for students and schools; and

5 (d) Ensuring an accessible, simplified process for enrolling
6 students in, and administering, related nutrition programs, including
7 the summer P-EBT program.

8 (2) In addition to the requirements of this section and other
9 requirements deemed necessary by the superintendent of public
10 instruction, the superintendent of public instruction shall ensure
11 the electronic repository:

12 (a) Complies with any applicable federal requirements for
13 participation in the national school lunch program, the school
14 breakfast program, or both programs;

15 (b) Complies with any applicable requirements necessary for
16 schools and school districts to access repository data;

17 (c) Complies with any applicable standards and requirements
18 necessary to ensure that the repository data connects to the direct
19 certification system and streamlines the process in a manner that
20 maximizes the number of eligible students directly certified for free
21 school meals each month;

22 (d) Includes robust safeguards, both technically and
23 procedurally, to ensure that the income information provided by
24 parents and legal guardians is secure and accessed only by
25 individuals with express authorization to do so; and

26 (e) Is accessible online and easily navigable by parents and
27 legal guardians, and in multiple languages, for the purpose of
28 voluntarily providing the pertinent household income data.

29 (3) Household income information received by the office of the
30 superintendent of public instruction, school employees, school
31 district employees, or their designees in accordance with this
32 section is exempt from disclosure under chapter 42.56 RCW and may not
33 be disseminated except as provided by law.

34 (4)(a) Beginning in 2022, the office of the superintendent of
35 public instruction shall report annually to the legislature by
36 December 1st on the electronic repository, including: (i) The number
37 of schools and school districts accessing the data of the electronic
38 repository for providing household information that is required for a
39 school's participation in the national school lunch program, the
40 school breakfast program, or both programs; and (ii) recommendations

1 for increasing the number of repository users and improving the
2 technical functionality of the repository.

3 (b) In lieu of the report contents required in (a) of this
4 subsection, the report required by December 1, 2022, shall include a
5 plan, timeline, and cost estimate for: (i) Implementing the
6 development of the repository; (ii) securing any needed vendors for
7 its development and, if necessary, operation; and (iii) making the
8 repository accessible to schools, school districts, and the public
9 through appropriate electronic interfaces.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 42.56
11 RCW to read as follows:

12 Household income information received by the office of the
13 superintendent of public instruction, school district employees, or
14 designees of either in accordance with the electronic repository
15 established under section 1 of this act is exempt from disclosure
16 under this chapter.

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